



# MARSHALL STAR

Serving the Marshall Space Flight Center Community

June 26, 2008

## NASA Family Assistance Fund provides helping hand

By Megan Norris Davidson

Tragic events, such as a death in the family or the devastation of a natural disaster, can leave a workforce asking — "How can I help?" With the NASA Family Assistance Fund, civil service and contractor employees can provide financial support to their colleagues in those times of inconceivable loss.

The fund, created in 2003 after the space shuttle Columbia accident, provides grants or no-interest loans to eligible NASA civil service employees and their families who have suffered loss because of an uninsured personal crisis, emergency or natural disaster. The fund has provided assistance to the families of the Columbia crew members and to NASA employees from the Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans

and the Stennis Space Center near Gulf Port, Miss., after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

One of the deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history, Katrina caused severe damage to the Gulf Coast.

The NASA Family Assistance Fund was established through the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund, the only nonprofit organization that provides scholarships and emergency financial assistance solely to civilian employees of the federal government. The FEEA, in consultation with an advisory board of NASA employees, distributes the funds to families on an as-needed basis. More than \$178,000 in contributions is available to



help employees.

Digna Carballosa, deputy director of Marshall's Office of Human Capital, worked with the FEEA and Marshall's Office of the Chief Counsel to establish a fund to provide assistance to the family of the late Darren Spurlock, an engineer in the Marshall Engineering Directorate's Spacecraft and Vehicle Systems Department. Spurlock was killed May 30 in an automobile accident on Redstone Arsenal, leaving behind his wife, Kelly, and two young children.

*See FEEA on page 4*

## Marshall Center to spotlight NASA's past, future at Huntsville Air Show on June 28-29

By Rick Smith

While daredevil aviators fill the sky over Huntsville International Airport on June 28-29, Marshall Space Flight Center educators and engineers will be on hand at the 2008 Huntsville Air Show to point attendees at a loftier target — the moon and worlds beyond.

The Marshall Center exhibits team will talk about NASA's past, present and future at the center's booth, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of the air show. The booth will be at the

southernmost end of the exhibits area, near the concession stands. Marshall team members are encouraged to stop by during the air show.

On June 28, former astronaut Jim Halsell, now vice president and program manager for the Ares I Upper Stage team at ATK Launch Systems in Huntsville, will present video of his space shuttle missions, and talk about his experiences as a five-time NASA shuttle commander. His presentations will begin at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Marshall Center team members will share the latest news and milestones critical to Marshall's work on the Ares rockets, which will carry a new generation of explorers to space, to the moon and beyond in coming decades. They'll also share artifacts, models and highlights of past NASA missions that laid the groundwork for new journeys of discovery.

The air show is free to the public. Parking is \$10 per vehicle. For more information about the Huntsville Air Show, visit <http://www.hsvairport.org/airshow>.

*Smith, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

## **'Roll Tide!'**

# **Marshall's Charlie Holliman scores as honorary student at University of Alabama**

*By Jessica Wallace*

Next time you wear an Auburn University shirt or lanyard to work at the Marshall Space Flight Center, don't be surprised if you hear a powerful "Roll Tide!" from a well-known voice.

A very dedicated University of Alabama fan, Marshall's Charlie Holliman became an honorary student of the Tuscaloosa institution June 12.

For 28 years, Holliman has been a general clerk in the Office of Human Capital. A familiar face to Marshall team members, especially in Building 4200, many people count on Holliman's help — from delivering mail to making sure sensitive documents are shredded to opening the Self Study Learning Center in 4200 first thing each day.

"Every morning, I look forward to Charlie coming into my office," said Belinda Bishop, executive support assistant in the Office of Center Operations. "He helps me keep my days straight by changing out my desktop calendar while talking about Alabama football. I really believe that he's the most avid fan the university has!

"Charlie and I were talking one day, and he mentioned that he wanted to attend the University of Alabama, but wasn't smart enough," said Bishop. "I wanted to make sure he did not believe that about himself. He is a very valuable employee to Center Operations and was presented an On-the-Spot Award last August for being so dependable and accurate in his efforts to assist our office."

In December, Bishop contacted Deborah Lane, executive director of public relations at the university, to see if she could make Holliman's dream a reality by naming him an honorary student. "She said the university would be thrilled to do this for Charlie," said Bishop.

Recently, his dream came true. In a crowded conference room in Building 4200 — full of Marshall employees and Holliman's family — representatives of the University of Alabama were here to induct Holliman into the Roll Tide family as an honorary student.

"I was so surprised!" said Holliman, wearing his Alabama hat. "When I first saw my mom, I thought I was in trouble."

Presented by Cason Kirby, president of the university's Student Government Association, Holliman received an award with his honorary student title scripted across

the document, along with a football signed by Alabama football coach Nick Saban, a helmet, jersey and a host of other Alabama memorabilia.

"We were so thrilled that Charlie got a chance to become an honorary student," said Cindy Campbell, business manager in the Office of Human Capital, and Holliman's supervisor. "We rely on Charlie for numerous things," Campbell said. "He provides support and successfully completes all assignments. And he goes above and beyond what we ask him to do in the tasks he accomplishes. Charlie is always pleasant, with a cheerful disposition and a willingness to help."

Born on Jan. 17, 1959, in Birmingham, Holliman moved to Huntsville with his family in 1967 and attended East Clinton Elementary, Mountain Gap Middle, Whitesburg Middle and Huntsville High. After graduating from high school in 1979, he joined the Marshall Center as a general clerk for Human Capital through a program designated for the disabled.

Since his first day at Marshall, Holliman has made sure Marshall employees know he roots for Alabama, has always rooted for Alabama and will forever root for Alabama.

When asked what's his favorite thing about the University of Alabama, Holliman, without hesitation, will tell you, "When Alabama beats Auburn!"

*Wallace, an ASRI employee and Marshall Star editor, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*



David Higginbotham/MSEC

**Charlie Holliman accepts his honorary student award from Cason Kirby, the University of Alabama's Student Government Association president.**

# Science & Mission Systems Office honors employee excellence

By Dauna Coulter

The Marshall Center's Science & Mission Systems Office honored its outstanding employees at the organization's annual awards ceremony June 16 picnic-style. Held at the Huntsville Botanical Garden, the event paid tribute to especially deserving employees and teams who went the extra mile during the past year.

Science & Mission Systems Office picnickers strolled through the garden grounds among flowers, butterflies and life-like dinosaur models to work up an appetite for a hearty Southern-style lunch of barbecue and all "the fixin's."

Before the nearly 250 attendees began their meal, Dr. John Horack, the office's manager, extended his thanks to employees for all the outstanding work accomplished this past year.

"We are public servants," Horack said. "We can't give our employees stock options or hefty bonuses, but we can say thank you. And we thank each and every one of you for your continued hard work and dedication to the success of all our projects and programs within the Science & Mission Systems Office."

After lunch, supervisors presented the S&MS Group Achievement Awards and Peer Awards to teams and individuals.

Group Achievement Award recipients included the following teams:

- Constellation Level 2 System Engineering & Integration team for its support during the intense, two-week Integrated Stack Technical Interchange meeting at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, during which the team tracked over 250 issues to closure.
- Constellation Level 2 Program Planning & Control/Management Systems Office team for its support during that same meeting at Johnson. This team developed the system that allowed all the issues to be tracked and the system used to keep up with the team protocols.
- Materials Science Research Rack team for dedicated team efforts in completing flight rack testing, verification closures and final safety reviews, culminating in a successful Management Acceptance Review in January.
- Radiation Hardened Electronics for Space Environments Technology Development Project team in recognition of its efforts to advance the current state-of-the-art in radiation-hardened electronics and modeling and to develop high-performance devices robust enough to withstand the demanding conditions in space and lunar environments required for Constellation flight project customers.
- Mission Management Team for First Return Mission to the Moon, Lunar Precursor Robotic Program, Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter and Lunar CRater Observation & Sensing Satellite Mission Management Team, for excellent mission management and evaluation of the LPRP, LRO and LCROSS projects to be launched in late 2008.
- NanoSail-D Project Support Team for outstanding initiative, dedication and innovation in developing and delivering a cube-sized solar sail technology demonstration payload, in



Dr. John Horack, Science & Mission Systems Office manager, presents a Group Achievement Award to Todd Holloway, Lunar Precursor Robotics Program mission manager, accepting on behalf of the team.

collaboration with Ames Research Center at Moffett Field, Calif., for launch on an upcoming SpaceX Falcon flight.

- Observing Microwave Emissions for Geophysical Applications Instrument Development Team for sustained superior performance in planning, designing, and manufacturing and integration of the suite of OMEGA microwave instrument systems.
- Global Hydrology Resource Center User Services for sustained excellence and outstanding customer support in the successful operations of the User Services office, which has received top scores yearly in assessments by the National Quality Research Center.
- Solar Ultraviolet Magnetograph Investigation Sounding Rocket Payload team for developing this new instrument, which will measure the strength and direction of the magnetic field in the sun's transition region, where such measurements have never before been made.
- X-ray & Cryogenic Facility Science Integrated Instrument Module Test team for exceptional and professional contributions to conclusive cryogenic testing of the James Webb Space Telescope Integrated Science Instrument Module, allowing the telescope to redefine elements of the system level performance error budget.
- Advanced Microwave Precipitation Radiometer team for overcoming obstacles to support the NASA Tropical Composition, Cloud and Climate Coupling Experiment in Costa Rica in July 2007. This instrument, a passive remote sensor, provided unique information documenting the intense characteristics of maritime thunderstorms of the Central American region, contributing significantly to the study of cloud and climate interactions.

Nominated by organization team members, Peer Award winners excelled in the categories of communication, teamwork, excellence,

*See Awards on page 6*



## 5,000 attend Michoud employee day



More than 5,000 employees attended the open house of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans June 21. Managed by the Marshall Space Flight Center, the men and women of Michoud design, manufacture and assemble the space shuttle's external tank. Lockheed Martin, NASA's prime contractor for the shuttle external tank, performs work on site at Michoud. Viewing a liquid hydrogen tank at the open house are, from left, Cliff Bailey, assistant to the Michoud transition director; John Chapman, external tank project manager; Chip Jones, Michoud chief operating officer; Wanda Sigur, Lockheed Martin vice president, external tank project; Mike Javery, Lockheed Martin vice president of operations; Sheila Cloud, Michoud transition director; and Pat Whipps, Michoud external tank resident manager. Michoud also has been selected by NASA to support several major projects for the Constellation Program, which is developing NASA's next-generation of crew exploration and launch vehicles, including the Ares I rocket, Ares V cargo launch vehicle and the Orion crew capsule.

Lockheed Martin

## FEEA

### *Continued from page 1*

"Donating to this fund is a wonderful and positive way to help families like Darren's in their time of need," Carballosa said. "The contributions made to the Spurlock fund can significantly help with education expenses and any other unforeseen expenditures to better position his family to cope through this very difficult time."

To contribute to the NASA Family Assistance Fund, or directly to the Spurlock family, visit the FEEA Web site at [www.feea.org](http://www.feea.org). Choose the "Give Now" button at the top of the page, and follow the instructions on the form. Employees may designate their contribution to the Spurlock family on the form. Checks also can be mailed to FEEA NASA-FAF, 8441 W. Bowles Ave., Suite 200, Littleton, CO 80123-9501. Contributions may be made by phone at 303-933-7580. One-hundred percent of all donations will go to

NASA families. There are no administrative fees associated with the fund's operation.

Marshall employees also may pledge money to the NASA Family Assistance Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign, which raises money for charities and agencies in Huntsville and surrounding areas. The pledge number for the fund is 11185. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

NASA civil service employees who have suffered a personal or property loss and would like to be considered for assistance through the NASA fund can apply on the FEEA Web site or by calling Rosanne Martillaro, NASA point of contact at FEEA, at 800-338-0755.

For more information about the NASA Family Assistance Fund, visit [http://www.feea.org/special\\_funds/nasafaf.html](http://www.feea.org/special_funds/nasafaf.html).

*Davidson, an ASRI employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.*

# Classified Ads

*To submit a classified ad to the Marshall Star, go to Inside Marshall, to "Employee Resources," and click on "Employee Ads — Submit Ad." Ads are limited to 15 words, including contact numbers. No sales pitches. Deadline for the next issue, July 3, is 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 26.*

## Miscellaneous

Front door, threshold, 3 feet wide, steel, two sidelights.  
461-6337

Lapidary equipment, rock-cutting cabochon unit,  
gem-cutting faceting unit. 883-8257

Kasson pool table, Auburn model, fruitwood, Queen Anne  
feet, leather pockets, all accessories, \$2,500. 880-6563

DirecTV satellite dish, 20-inch diameter, roof mount, 8  
feet of cable, \$15. 348-9381

Weslo Cadence 78E treadmill, \$125. 852-9177

Patio table, four matching chairs, \$25. 783-4850

Nintendo DS, silver, five games, charger, \$150; Gameboy  
Color, purple, case, one game, \$30. 656-9590

AKC German Shepherd puppies, ready July 15, first shots,  
wormed, five females, four males. 423-2090

Upright Harvard piano; Lowrey electric organ; 90HP  
fish-and-ski boat, \$1,500. 270-1123

Washer, dryer, draper, sheers, TV, cabinet, pedestal mirror,  
flatware, king-sized bed. 325-9102

Toy Poodle puppies, 7 weeks old, vet checked, registered,  
\$200. 714-3576

Mirage speakers, two OM-7 towers, two Omnisat satellite  
speakers, stands, \$1,500. 679-2165

Pedestals for Whirlpool Duet or Maytag front-loading

washer, dryer, white, \$250. 468-0854

3- by 6-foot windows, 6- by 6-foot window, prairie grid  
design, single hung, \$200. 683-5793

Solid wood dresser, mirror, \$50; full-size mattress,  
foundation, \$50; chest of drawers, \$10 509-6913

Black Lab puppies, two males, \$75 each, two females,  
\$100 each. 640-6576

Peg Perego high chair, \$100; swing, \$50; ExerSaucer, \$50;  
walker, \$20; Pack 'n Play, \$80; 426-4769

L-shaped sectional sofa, tan, recliners at each end, \$399.  
658-6514

Grizzly 6-inch jointer, extra blades, \$250; router, \$40.  
270-9113

Vintage 1972 Epiphone 12-string acoustic guitar, FT-160  
GC, hard shell case, \$225. 837-2806

Lexmark X83 printer/scanner/copier, \$25; color ink #20,  
black #70, \$10 each; HP F4280 printer/scanner/copier,  
\$50. 882-3326

Series 90 Kenmore washer, white, \$150, washer with  
dryer, \$300. 345-9555

King cherry finish rice bed, \$225. 837-3192

CKC Yorkies, two boys, two girls, ready July 4, taking  
deposits, \$500-\$600. 890-6193

Crimson sofa, loveseat, \$900; two high back navy  
blue floral chairs, \$400 obo; wingback chair, \$150.  
882-3065

Verizon Voyager phone, VCast, Bluetooth, touch screen,  
home/car charger, \$175. 503-2216

Mongoose 20-inch bike, \$25; Nintendo Gamecube, five  
games, \$75; trick skateboard, \$100. 721-0540 or  
651-9092

Lawn trailer, \$45; Xbox, 10 games, \$105; 1985 Ford F350  
diesel truck, \$800. 527-8116

Toshiba 15.4-inch laptop, 200GB HD, 2GB-DDR2, Web  
cam, wireless, four USB ports, \$775. 684-2606

Nurse scrubs, small, medium. 722-9989

4x8 tilt trailer, 14-inch tires, \$450. 652-1495

Simplicity zero-turn mower, 44 inch, 18HP Kohler  
Command engine, 40 hours, \$3,000. 830-4085

Reebok elliptical, \$300. 683-5030

## Vehicles

2008 Impala LT, 33 MPG, silver, extras, warranties, 8,900  
miles, \$18,500. 337-0201

2006 Lexus GS300, one owner, custom wheels, GPS,  
loaded, 49K miles, \$27,000. 256-797-8322

2005 Suzuki Hayabusa parts, front fender, gas tank, side/  
rear flair, black/red, windshield, original mufflers.  
658-3104

2004 Mazda RX8, blue, black interior, ground effects,  
six-disc CD, rear spoiler. 604-9951

2003 Yamaha FX140 WaveRunner, 34 hours, galvanized  
ShoreLand'r trailer, \$5,500. 881-0557

2002 5th wheel trailer, slide out, full amenities, \$14,500.  
721-1260

2001 Honda CRV LX, black/gray, 102k miles, \$7,900.  
883-6894 or 468-6894

2000 Ford Windstar SEL, loaded, quad leather seats, 135k  
miles, \$6,000 obo. 881-1005

1999 Toyota 4-Runner Limited Edition, white, brown  
interior, sunroof, CD, A/C, \$7,000. 694-1260

1995 Pontiac Bonneville, V6, \$1,800. 650-0317

1997 Isuzu Rodeo, 4WD, black, 164k miles, \$2,000 obo.  
883-7910

1973 Ford Maverick, all original, 61k miles, \$4,500.  
288-0086 or 541-0844

## Carpool

From New Market, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 508-0509

## Wanted

Houses/offices to clean, available evenings, weekends.  
777-8595

Propane or natural gas tank for residential use. 651-5847

Treadmill in working order. 656-2965

## Free

Hi-Fi tube-type equipment, tuners, oscilloscope, mostly  
EICO. 883-0567

## Moving toward NASA's 50th anniversary ...

This year marks many important anniversaries in U.S. history. NASA was created on Oct. 1, 1958. Ten years earlier, Congress had passed, and President Harry Truman had signed, the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948 that restored European agricultural and industrial productivity. Credited with preventing famine and political chaos, the plan later earned Army General George C. Marshall a Nobel Peace Prize. As the war-torn nations of Europe faced famine and economic crisis in the wake of World War II, the United States proposed to rebuild the continent in the interest of political stability and a healthy world economy. On June 5, 1947, Marshall, who was then serving as secretary of state, first called for American assistance in restoring the economic infrastructure of Europe, known as the Marshall Plan. In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, personally aware of Marshall's military service in World War II and of his civilian service in the Marshall Plan, elected to name the new NASA organization in Huntsville the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.





## Lunar Precursor Robotic Program's manager pitches his team farewell



Tony Lavoie, the Lunar Precursor Robotic Program's manager at the Marshall Space Flight Center — and an ardent baseball fan — got the chance to share a special moment with his team members. On June 19 at Joe Davis Stadium in Huntsville, Lavoie threw out the first pitch of the night when the Huntsville Stars minor league baseball team played the West Tenn Diamond Jaxx of Jackson, Tenn. Arranged by some of his employees, the event gave Lavoie the opportunity to bid farewell to his colleagues. "This is better than any retirement party!" he told his team. Lavoie was presented with a caricature created by Mark Boudreaux of the Science & Exploration Research Office, showing Lavoie playing with his favorite team, the Boston Red Sox. Above, Lavoie and his administrative assistant Marcia Crowe show off the drawing at the game. At right, Lavoie pitches from the baseball mound.



Fred Deaton/MSFC

## Awards

### Continued from page 3

innovation and above-and-beyond service. A contractor and a civil servant were honored in each category, as follows:

- Dominique Cavanaugh (Triumph Aerospace) and Linda Yarbrough, Communication Award
- Evgeny Kuznetsov (University of Alabama in Huntsville) and Cindy Upton, Teamwork Award

- Darell Engelhaupt (University of Alabama in Huntsville) and Steve Gaddis, Excellence Award
- Marilyn Newhouse (Computer Sciences Corp.) and Bill Hogue, Innovation Award
- Laurie Provin (Schafer Corp.) and Thea Baskerville-Brown, Above-and-Beyond Service Award

*The writer, a Schafer Corp. employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.*

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